

Good permutation  
braids, dual braid  
monoids and  
positivity in Hecke  
algebras

Thomas Gobet  
(joint work with  
François Digne)

Classical Coxeter  
groups and their  
braid groups

Dual Coxeter  
theory

Positivity  
conjecture and  
reduction

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braids and a proof  
in type  $A_n$

The situation in  
other types

# Good permutation braids, dual braid monoids and positivity in Hecke algebras

Thomas Gobet  
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Technische Universität Kaiserslautern

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Université de Pau,  
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# Classical Coxeter theory

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$$W = \langle s_1, \dots, s_n \mid s_i^2 = e, \underbrace{s_i s_j \cdots}_{m_{ij}} = \underbrace{s_j s_i \cdots}_{m_{ij}} \rangle,$$

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## Example

*The symmetric group  $W = \mathfrak{S}_n$ , is a Coxeter group with  $S = \{s_i = (i, i+1) \mid i = 1, \dots, n-1\}$ ,  $m_{ij} = 3$  if  $|i-j| = 1$ ,  $m_{ij} = 2$  if  $|i-j| > 1$ .*

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- ▶ Let  $(W, S)$  be finite. There is an embedding  $B(W)^+ \hookrightarrow B(W)$  (Deligne, Brieskorn-Saito) and  $B(W)^+$  is a *Garside monoid*. In particular, left divisibility is a partial order on  $B(W)^+$ .

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- ▶ The monoid  $B(W)^+$  contains a set  $\mathbf{W}$  of *simple elements* with are in one-to-one correspondence with  $W$ . They can be defined as follows: let  $w \in W$ , with  $S$ -reduced expression  $s_1 s_2 \cdots s_k$ . The corresponding element  $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbf{W}$  is the product  $\mathbf{s}_1 \mathbf{s}_2 \cdots \mathbf{s}_k$ .

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# Simple elements and Hecke algebra

- ▶ The set  $\mathbf{W} \subset B(W)^+$  together with the restriction of the left divisibility order is a lattice. The corresponding order on  $W$  is the **left weak order**  $<_S$ :

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- ▶ Hecke algebra  $\mathcal{H}(W)$  : associative  $\mathbb{Z}[v, v^{-1}]$ -algebra with a presentation

$$\left\langle T_{s_1}, \dots, T_{s_n} \left| \begin{array}{l} \underbrace{T_{s_i} T_{s_j} \cdots}_{m_{ij}} = \underbrace{T_{s_j} T_{s_i} \cdots}_{m_{ij}} \\ T_{s_i}^2 = (v^{-2} - 1) T_{s_i} + v^{-2} \end{array} \right. \right\rangle$$

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- ▶ Since the  $T_{s_i}$  satisfy the braid relations, there is a multiplicative homomorphism  $B(W) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}(W)$  (or  $B(W)^+ \rightarrow \mathcal{H}(W)$ ).

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- ▶ **Idea:** replace the set  $S$  of generators of  $W$  by the set of all reflections of  $W$ , that is, by the set  $T = \bigcup_{w \in W} wSw^{-1}$ , and study  $W$  and  $B(W)$  using this point of view.

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**Problem:** Unlike  $<_S$ , the partial order  $<_T$  does not endow  $W$  with a lattice structure.

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- ▶ Let  $(W, S)$  be finite,  $c \in W$  a Coxeter element, that is, a product of all the elements of  $S$  in some order. One has  $l_T(c) = |S|$ . Set  $P_c := \{y \in W \mid y <_T c\}$ . One can show that for any Coxeter element  $c$ ,  $T \subset P_c$ .

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- ▶ The poset  $(P_c, <_T)$  is a lattice (Bessis, Brady-Watt, Ingalls-Thomas, Reading).

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# Lattice structure

- ▶ Let  $(W, S)$  be finite,  $c \in W$  a Coxeter element, that is, a product of all the elements of  $S$  in some order. One has  $\ell_T(c) = |S|$ . Set  $P_c := \{y \in W \mid y <_T c\}$ . One can show that for any Coxeter element  $c$ ,  $T \subset P_c$ .
- ▶ The poset  $(P_c, <_T)$  is a lattice (Bessis, Brady-Watt, Ingalls-Thomas, Reading).
- ▶ Dual braid relations: let  $t, t' \in T$ . One has the relation  $tt' = t'(t'tt')$  in  $W$ .

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- ▶ One can show that  $B_c^* \hookrightarrow \text{Frac}(B_c^*) \cong B(W)$  and that  $B_c^*$  is a Garside monoid. The image of  $i_c(s_j)$  in  $B(W)$  is  $S_j$ .

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# Simple elements of $B_C^*$

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- ▶ **Question:** what can be said of the images of  $\mathbf{P}_C$  in  $\mathcal{H}(W)$ ?

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- ▶ **Question:** what can be said of the images of  $\mathbf{P}_C$  in  $\mathcal{H}(W)$ ? More generally, can we use  $B_C^*$  and the dual theory to study  $\mathcal{H}(W)$ ?

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- ▶ The set  $\mathbf{P}_c$  is too small to give a basis of  $\mathcal{H}(W)$ . But in type  $A_n$ , it gives a basis of the Temperley-Lieb quotient of  $\mathcal{H}(W)$ .

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## Conjecture

*The linear expansion of the image of any element of  $\mathbf{P}_c$  in the basis  $C_w$  of  $\mathcal{H}(W)$  lies in*

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- ▶ The conjecture is a straightforward computation for dihedral groups.

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# Reduction of the conjecture to a problem of braids

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# Reduction of the conjecture to a problem of braids

- ▶ The aim of the rest of the talk is to explain how to prove the conjecture in types  $A_n$  and  $B_n$ . It relies on geometrical properties of the dual simple braids viewed in  $B(W)$ .

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- ▶ The  $C_W$  and  $C'_W$ -bases are the natural bases to be categorified. They can be categorified either geometrically using perverse sheaves on the flag variety (for Weyl groups) or algebraically using Soergel bimodules (in general). Using the first theory, one can reduce the question of positivity (Warning: for Weyl groups) to the following conjecture:

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## Conjecture

*Any simple element of  $B_c^*$ , after embedding in  $B(W)$ , can be written in the form  $\mathbf{x}^{-1}\mathbf{y}$ , with  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbf{W}$ .*

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# Good permutation braids

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# Good permutation braids

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# Good permutation braids

- ▶ Let's consider the type  $A_n$  situation. The braid group  $B(W) = B_{n+1}$  has a well-known geometrical realization by Artin braids.

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- ▶ A braid diagram is **reduced** if it has a minimal number of crossings. A braid  $\beta$  is a **permutation braid** if it has a reduced diagram where any two strands cross at most once (equivalently if any reduced diagram is like that).
- ▶ A braid is a **good permutation braid** if one can inductively remove a strand which is over all the others (as the vocabulary suggests, such a braid must be a permutation braid).

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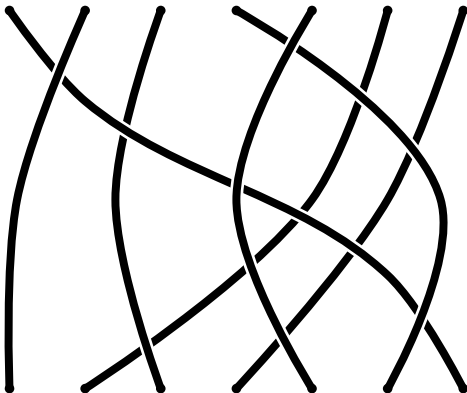
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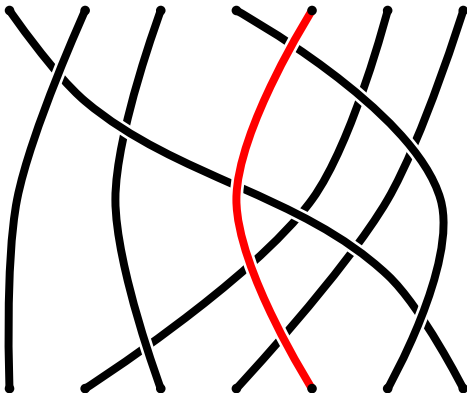
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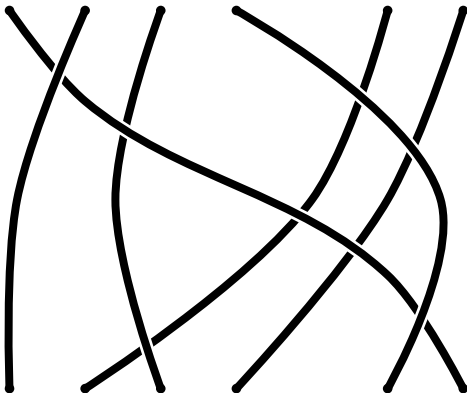
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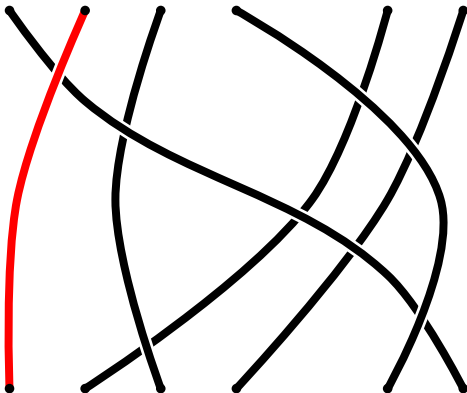
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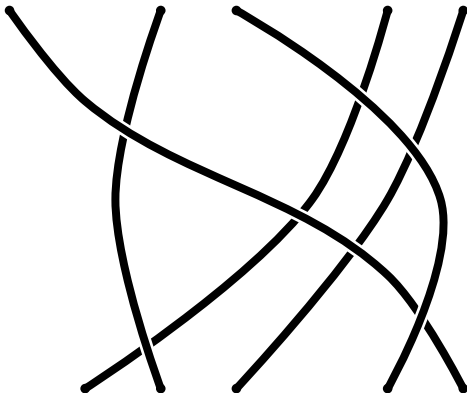
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braids, dual braid  
monoids and  
positivity in Hecke  
algebras

Thomas Gobet  
(joint work with  
François Digne)

Classical Coxeter  
groups and their  
braid groups

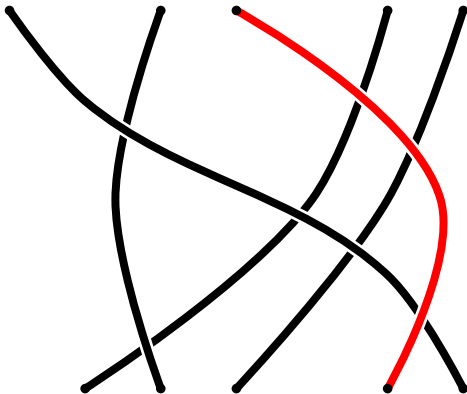
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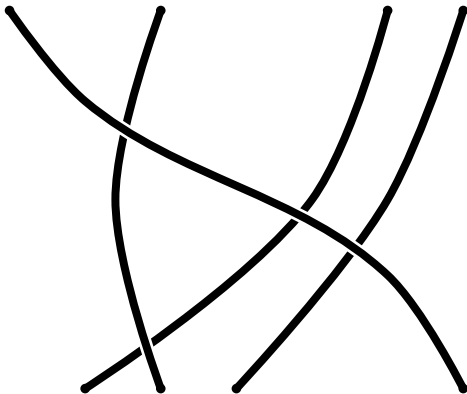
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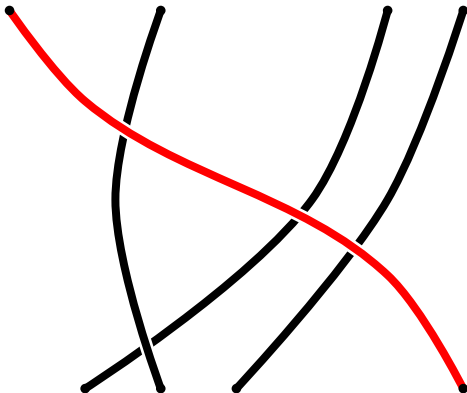
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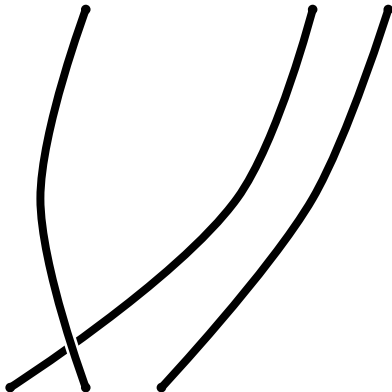
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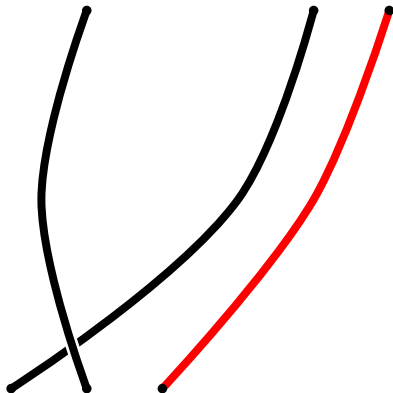
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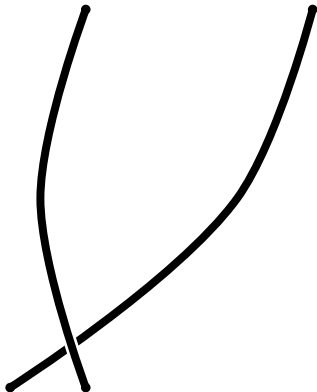
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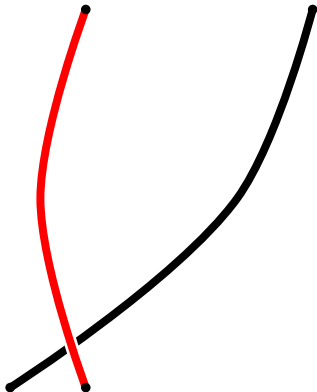
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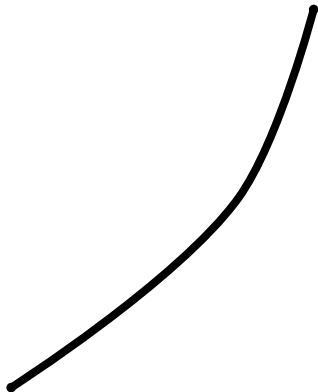
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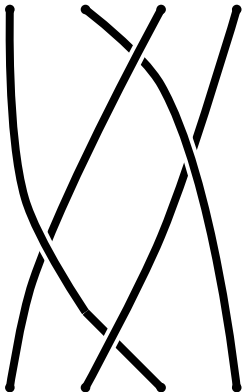
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# Counterexample



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# An algebraic characterization of gpb

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# An algebraic characterization of gpb

Theorem (Digne - G., 2014)

*Let  $\beta \in B_{n+1}$ . Then the following are equivalent:*

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## Theorem (Digne - G., 2014)

*Let  $\beta \in B_{n+1}$ . Then the following are equivalent:*

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# An algebraic characterization of gpb

## Theorem (Digne - G., 2014)

Let  $\beta \in B_{n+1}$ . Then the following are equivalent:

1. The braid  $\beta$  is a good permutation braid,
2. There exists  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbf{W}$  such that  $\beta = \mathbf{x}^{-1}\mathbf{y}$ ,

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## Proposition (Dehornoy, 1999)

Under the same assumptions as above, TFAE

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## Proposition (Dehornoy, 1999)

Under the same assumptions as above, TFAE

1. The braid  $\beta$  is  $f$ -realizable,
2. One has  $\Delta^{-1} \leq \beta \leq \Delta$ , where  $\Delta$  is the Garside element for the classical Garside structure and  $u \leq v$  iff  $u^{-1}v \in B^+(W)$ .

# Simple elements of dual monoids are good permutation braids

Good permutation braids, dual braid monoids and positivity in Hecke algebras

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## Proposition (Digne - G., 2014)

*Let  $(W, S)$  be a Coxeter system of type  $A_n$  and  $c$  an arbitrary Coxeter element. Then any element  $x \in \mathbf{P}_c \subset B_c^*$  is a good permutation braid.*

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## Corollary

*The positivity conjecture on the linear expansion of an element  $x \in \mathbf{P}_c \subset B_c^*$  in the Kazhdan-Lusztig  $C_w$ -basis of  $\mathcal{H}(W)$  holds in type  $A_n$  for any choice of Coxeter element.*

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- ▶ The same approach as in type  $A_n$  can be used in type  $B_n$  (using symmetric braids) to show the reduction of the conjecture, implying the positivity conjecture,

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- ▶ The reduction of the conjecture can be seen to hold for any exceptional Coxeter group by computer. This implies the positivity conjecture for Weyl groups, i.e., for all of them but  $H_3$  and  $H_4$  (for this one would need to show the reduction for all finite Coxeter groups),

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- ▶ What about type  $D_n$ ?

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- ▶ What about type  $D_n$ ? Computations in small ranks using the computer show that the conjecture should still hold, but to the best of our knowledge, there is no geometrical model for the Artin-Tits group of type  $D_n$  similar to those used for types  $A_n$  and  $B_n$ .

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Thank you !